

DE SILC Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 13, 2024  
via Zoom

Members Present: Daniese McMullin-Powell (Advocacy Committee Chairperson), Sandra Farina (DE SILC Chairperson), Arte Mays (DE SILC Vice-Chair), Kathryn Burritt (DE SILC Executive Director) and Blake Roberts (DE SILC Secretary).

### Meeting Commencement

Today's Advocacy Committee meeting commenced at 12:02 PM. Arte made a motion to accept the agenda; Sandra seconded. The agenda was approved with no opposition, changes or corrections.

### Approval of Minutes

Sandra made a motion to approve the January Advocacy Committee Minutes; Arte seconded. Minutes were approved with no questions, opposition or changes.

### Discussion

The Committee Chairperson said two topics of legislation at Legislative Hall currently are parking and education. Daniese stated there are two parking standards. Sandra agreed about the importance of people educating themselves about disability rights. Daniese said it is important for the Advocacy Committee to know what is going on to avoid accepting disability myths. Sandra then said it could be beneficial to focus on parking as an advocacy issue. Daniese said the parking discussion is almost complete.

Daniese emphasized the value of conversations, although, it is also important to understand what existing policies and laws say. For example: policies might need to change to accommodate service animals. Daniese pointed out that laws override policies. Daniese also stated the Committee needs more members. It is difficult to attract people; Sandra agreed. Sandra suggested that a PowerPoint presentation about a topic could attract attendees.

Another advocacy issue brought up by the Committee Chairperson during today's meeting was housing. The lack of accessible and affordable housing can prevent

transitioning from an institution to the community. Additionally, emergency preparedness of people with disabilities is important. Sandra agreed about the importance of preparing in advance. At the end of today's meeting, Daniese reminded attendees that the Latonya Reeves Freedom Act currently has 193 co-sponsors in Congress.

#### [Adjournment and Next Meeting](#)

Today's meeting adjourned at 1:34 PM. The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled to occur on March 12, 2024, at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Roberts, DE SILC Secretary